VENOM
APR • 4
$2.95 US
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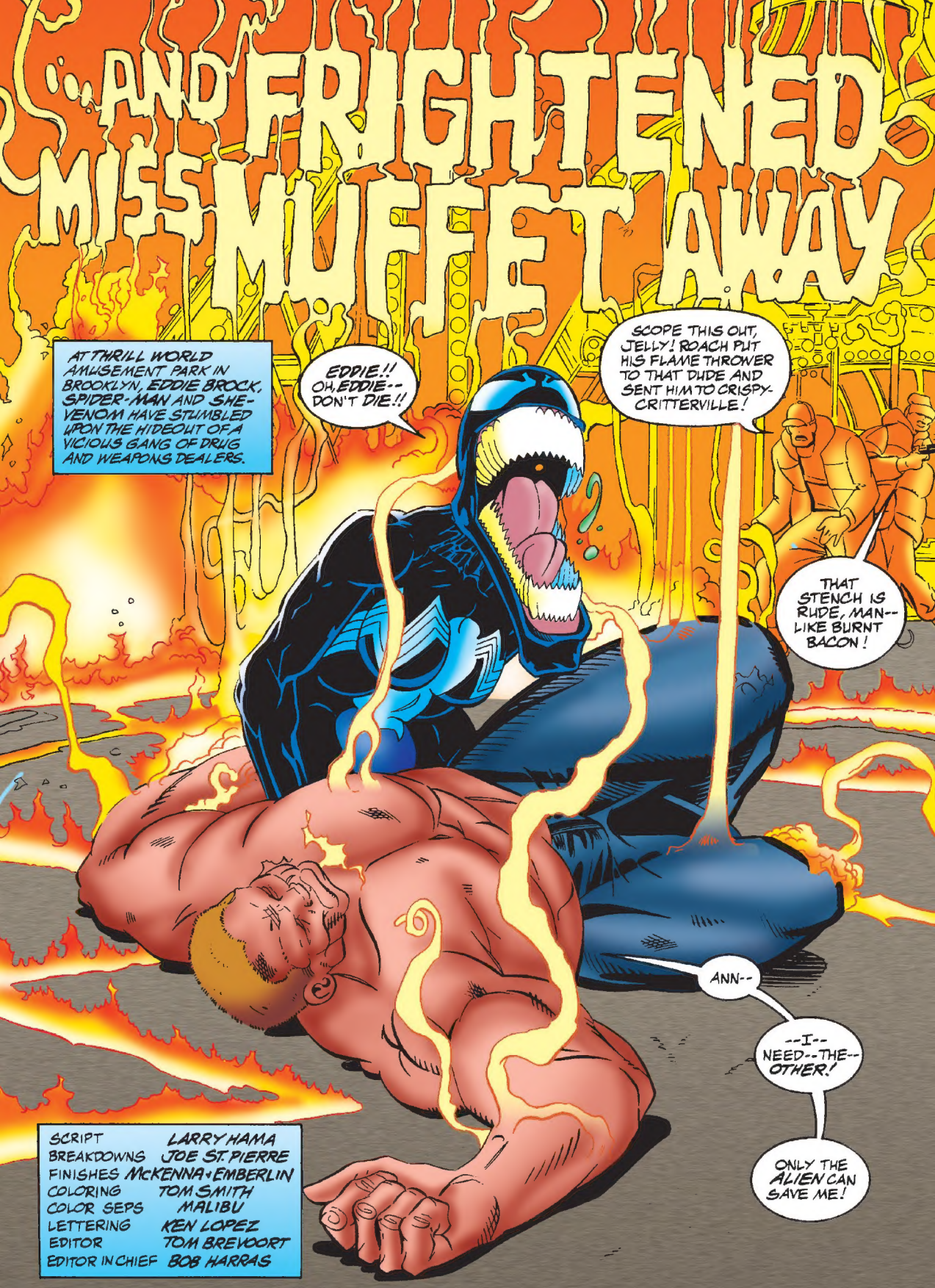
MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN
GROUP
ALONG CAME A SPIDER...
ST.PIERRE +'9
MCKENNA 5


AND FRIGHTENED MISS MUFFET AWAY
AT THRILL WORLD AMUSEMENT PARK IN BROOKLYN, EDDIE BROCK, SPIDER-MAN AND SHE-VENOM HAVE STUMBLED UPON THE HIDEOUT OF A VICIOUS GANG OF DRUG AND WEAPONS DEALERS.
EDDIE!! OH, EDDIE-- DON'T DIE!!
SCOPE THIS OUT, JELLY! ROACH PUT HIS FLAME THROWER TO THAT DUDE AND SENT HIM TO CRISPY-CRITTERVILLE!
THAT STENCH IS RUDE, MAN-- LIKE BURNT BACON!
ANN--
--I-- NEED--THE-- OTHER!
ONLY THE ALIEN CAN SAVE ME!
SCRIPT LARRY HAMA
BREAKDOWNS JOE ST. PIERRE
FINISHES McKENNA • EMBERLIN
COLORING TOM SMITH
COLOR SEPS MALIBU
LETTERING KEN LOPEZ
EDITOR TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR IN CHIEF BOB HARRAS

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LIKE IT HEALED *ME* WHEN I WAS *DYING*--!*

YES--

--LET--IT--COME--TO--*ME*--!

--AHHH!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

HOO-HA!

NOW WE ARE *WHOLE* AGAIN!

OH, EDDIE--DON'T LET THE *VENOM* SIDE OF YOU TAKE OVER!!

* IN VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL #2.--TOM.

THAT WAS *WHACK*, MAN!

I'LL GIVE YOU A *HOLE*--

--I'LL GIVE YOU A WHOLE MESS OF *NINE MILLIMETER HOLES*!

IT'S THAT *VENOM* CREEP!

HE DON'T LOOK THAT *BAD* TO ME--!

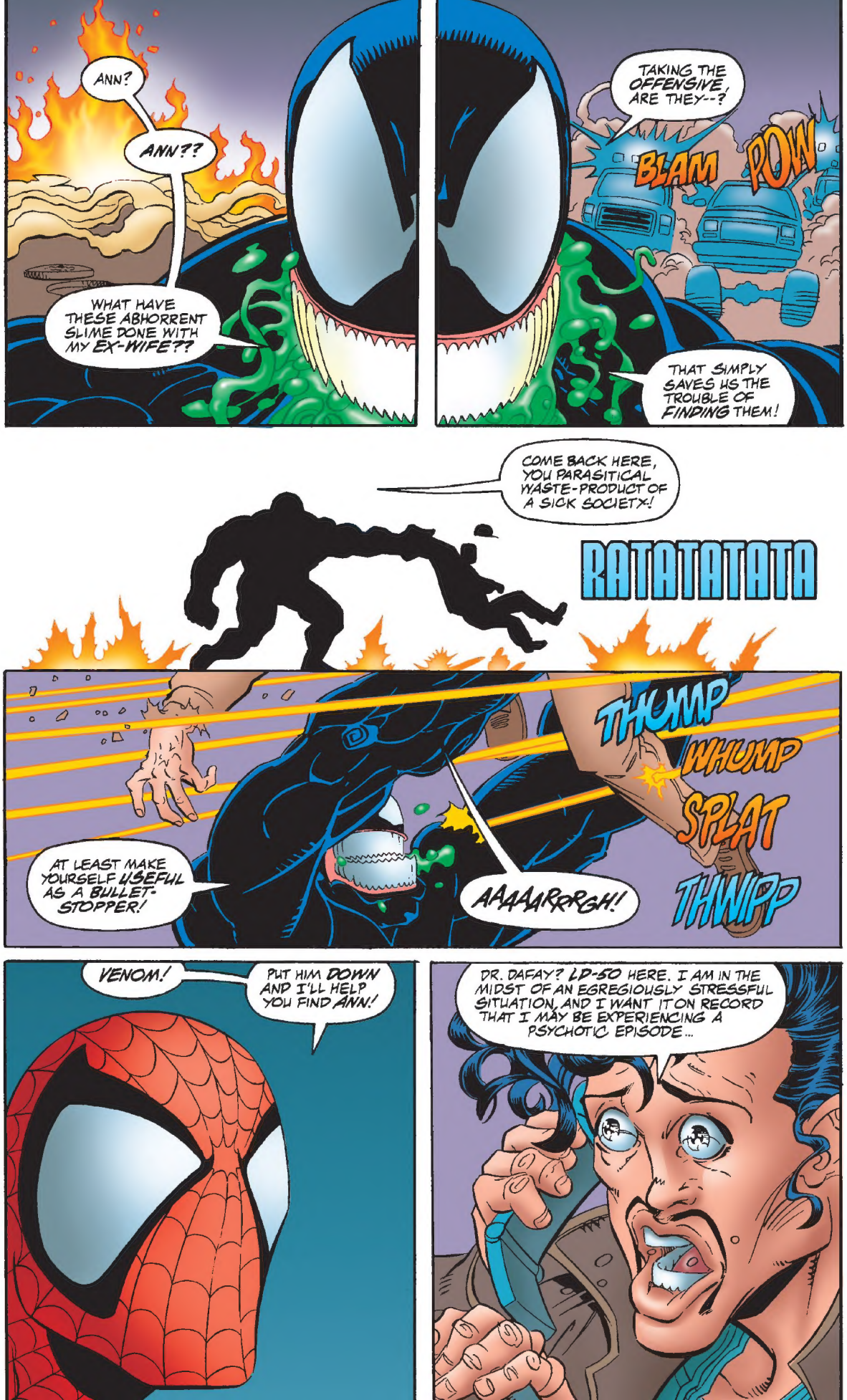
STONE *UGLY*, BUT NOT SO BAD HE CAN'T BE CAPPED-OFF, BLOWN AWAY, ZAPPED, SNUFFED, WHACKED, AND OTHERWISE DONE AWAY WITH!

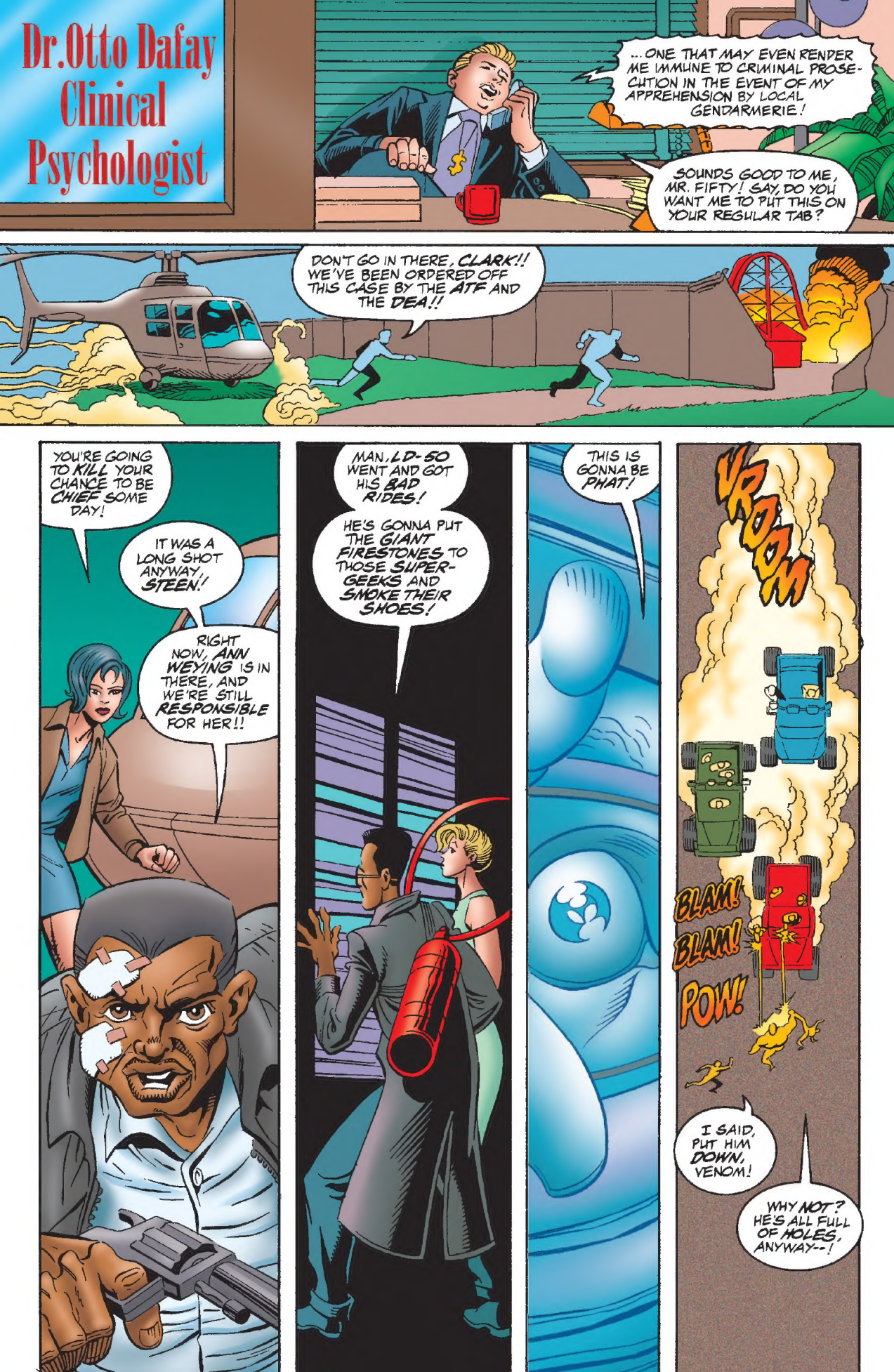
WASTE HIM!

GET BEHIND US, ANN!
BLAM BLAM
POW
THIS AMMO IS CHUMP--
THE FAULT LIES NOT IN YOUR AMMUNITION--
--BUT IN YOUR COLD, UNCARING, UNSALVAGEABLE CRIMINAL HEARTS!
EEEEYAAAA!
YOW! FIRST, I HAD TO STOP ANN WEYING FROM RIPPING APART THE BAD GUYS...
...NOW, I'VE GOT TO RESTRAIN VENOM FROM DOLING OUT HIS OWN BRAND OF INSTANT STREET JUSTICE!
SPIDER-MAN JUST JUMPED INTO THE FRAY!
ATF
DEA
TIME FOR US TO INTERVENE YET?
NEGATIVE! THIS WHOLE OPERATION WAS SET UP TO BAG THE HEAD SLIME-BUCKET HIMSELF-- LD-50!
DEA
HE'S BEEN FLOODING THE CITY WITH DRUGS AND GUNS!

I'M NOT WHOLELY AGAINST BRUISING A FELON OR TWO IN THE ACT OF APPREHENDING THEM FOR THE PROPER AUTHORITIES--
--I JUST HAPPEN TO DRAW THE LINE AT EATING THEIR BRAINS!!!
KEEE-RASH
YOU ARE SUCH A WIMP, SPIDER-MAN!
MIGHT AS WELL POP CAPS AT SPIDER-MAN WHILE HE'S HERE!
YEAH, AT LEAST WE KNOW HIS BUTT AIN'T BULLET-PROOF!
BLAM
BLAM
POW
BWEEEE
TZING
PING
SEE HOW THE VERMIN REPAY YOUR ACTIONS ON THEIR BEHALF?
NOBODY GETS INTO THE SUPER HERO GAME EXPECTING GRATITUDE, VENOM!

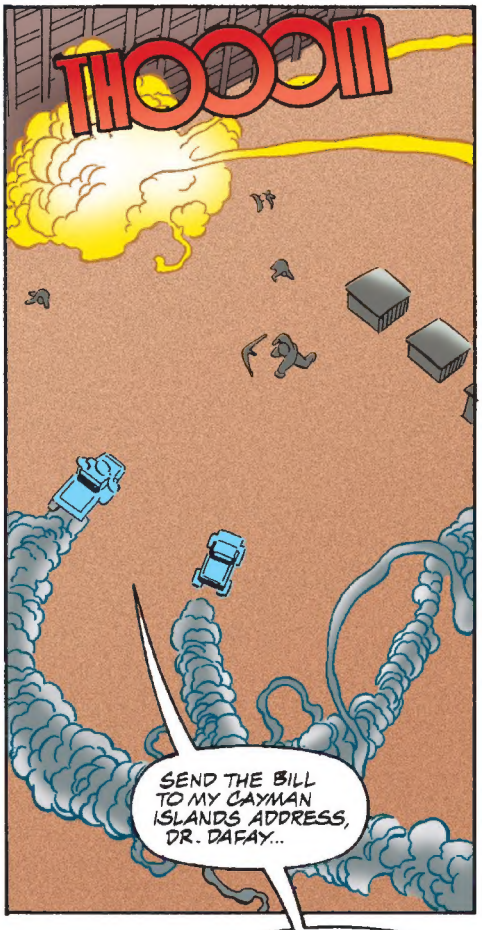
DON'T YOU STRUGGLE NONE, PRETTY LADY--
--THE OL' ROACH MEISTER HAS GOT AN ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER AND A FULL PRESSURIZED TANK OF JELLIED GASOLINE!
THAT FLAME-THROWER--!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BURNT UP EDDIE!!
VERY ASTUTE OBSERVATION, PRETTY LADY...
...AND I'M PRETTY OBSERVANT MYSELF!
I NOTICED THAT YOU'RE PRETTY IMPORTANT TO VENOM!
NOW WHERE DID I PUT THAT FLIP-PHONE--?
LD-50? THIS IS ROACH! I GOT VENOM'S MAIN SQUEEZE AS A HOSTAGE!
AM I EXPECTED TO EXPIRE IN PAROXYSMS OF ECSTASY AT THESE TIDINGS--?
HARDLY!
MAINTAIN THE TROLLOP INCOMMUNICADO, MY GOOD MAN...
...MY PUGNACIOUS COHORTS AND I ARE ALLEVIATING THE ONEROUS DILEMMA WITH VEHICULAR BEHEMOTHS AND MASSED FIREPOWER!
NOW, GET OFF THE LINE, I HAVE MY PSYCHIATRIST ON HOLD!

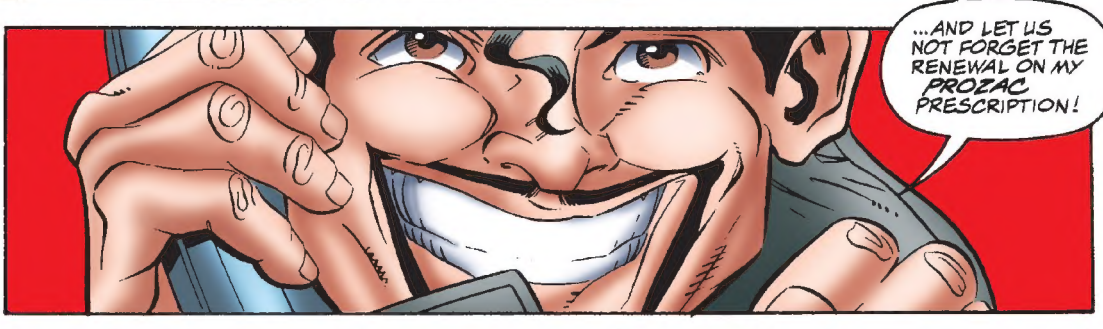

ANN?
ANN??
WHAT HAVE THESE ABHORRENT SLIME DONE WITH MY EX-WIFE??
TAKING THE OFFENSIVE, ARE THEY--?
BLAM
POW
THAT SIMPLY SAVES US THE TROUBLE OF FINDING THEM!
COME BACK HERE, YOU PARASITICAL WASTE-PRODUCT OF A SICK SOCIETY!
RATATATATA
THUMP
WHUMP
SPLAT
THWIPP
AT LEAST MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL AS A BULLET-STOPPER!
AAAAARRRGH!
VENOM!
PUT HIM DOWN AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND ANN!
DR. DAFAY? LD-50 HERE. I AM IN THE MIDST OF AN EGREGIOUSLY STRESSFUL SITUATION, AND I WANT IT ON RECORD THAT I MAY BE EXPERIENCING A PSYCHOTIC EPISODE...

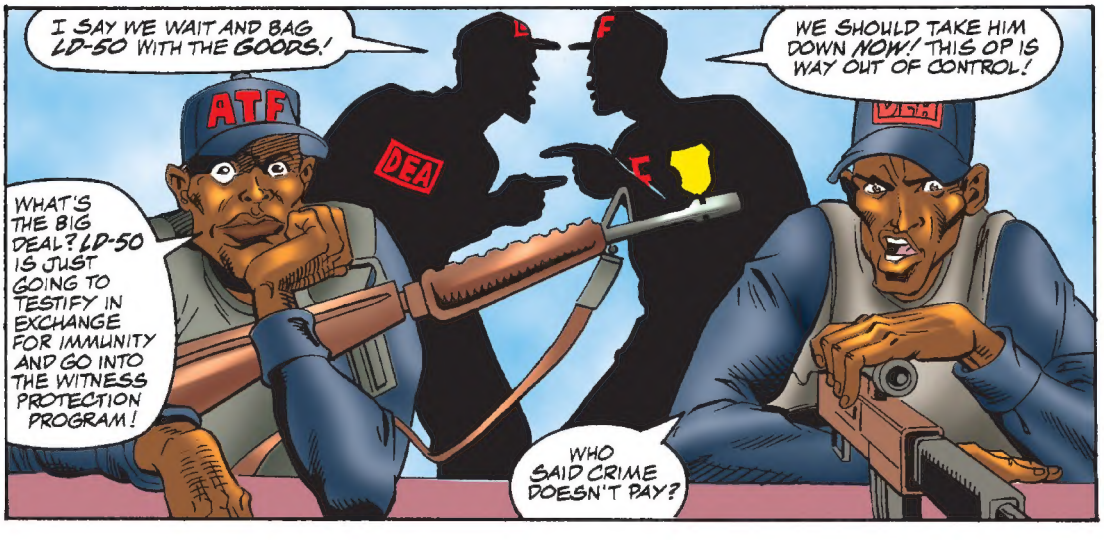

Dr. Otto Dafay
Clinical
Psychologist
...ONE THAT MAY EVEN RENDER ME IMMUNE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN THE EVENT OF MY APPREHENSION BY LOCAL GENDARMERIE!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, MR. FIFTY! SAY, DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT THIS ON YOUR REGULAR TAB?
DON'T GO IN THERE, CLARK!! WE'VE BEEN ORDERED OFF THIS CASE BY THE ATF AND THE DEA!!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL YOUR CHANCE TO BE CHIEF SOME DAY!
IT WAS A LONG SHOT ANYWAY, STEEN!
RIGHT NOW, ANN WEYING IS IN THERE, AND WE'RE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR HER!!
MAN, LD-50 WENT AND GOT HIS BAD RIDES!
HE'S GONNA PUT THE GIANT FIRESTONES TO THOSE SUPER-GEEKS AND SMOKE THEIR SHOES!
THIS IS GONNA BE PHAT!
VROOM
BLAM!
BLAM!
POW!
I SAID, PUT HIM DOWN, VENOM!
WHY NOT? HE'S ALL FULL OF HOLES, ANYWAY--!

AND HE'S SERVED HIS PURPOSE: DEFLECTING THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGEOUS FELONS!
IF THAT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR PROSE, IT'S NO WONDER YOU WERE A FAILURE AS A JOURNALIST!
I DIDN'T FAIL AS A NEWSPAPERMAN--
SKRONCH
--MY CAREER WAS SABOTAGED BY YOU...
...OR SOMEONE SO SIMILAR TO YOU HE COULD BE YOUR TWIN!
SCHRRIPP

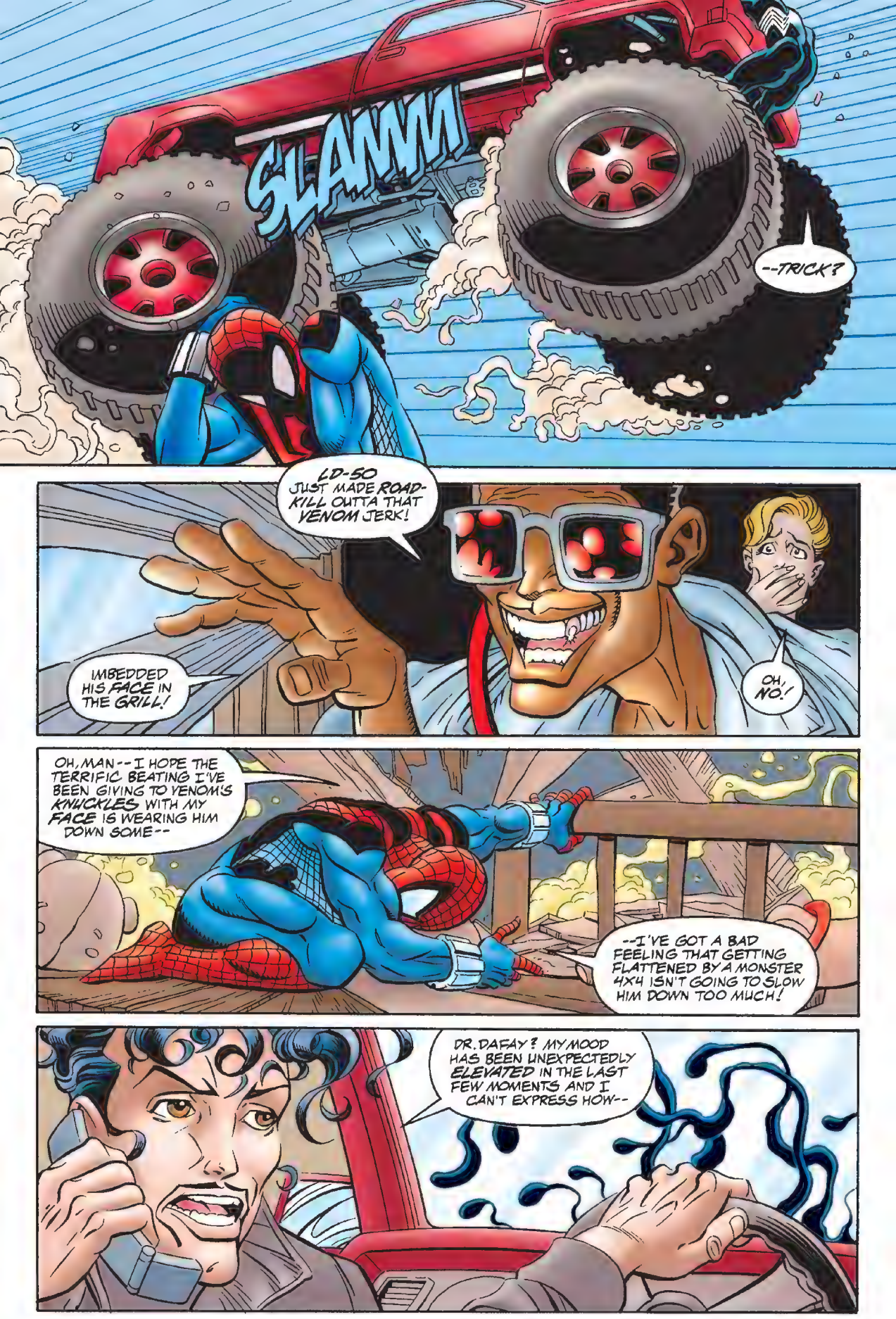
WHAT? HOW COULD HE KNOW--?
OF COURSE! HIS SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH ME ONCE BEFORE!* IT MUST RECOGNIZE ME!
OH YEAH? MY NEW AFTER-SHAVE THREW YOU OFF, HUH?
THAT WAS ABOUT AS CONVINCING AS THAT NEW COSTUME YOU'RE WEARING!
*DURING PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES IN THE 1995 SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS.--TOM


THOOOM
SEND THE BILL TO MY CAYMAN ISLANDS ADDRESS, DR. DAFAY...


...AND LET US NOT FORGET THE RENEWAL ON MY PROZAC PRESCRIPTION!


I SAY WE WAIT AND BAG LD-50 WITH THE GOODS!
WE SHOULD TAKE HIM DOWN NOW! THIS OP IS WAY OUT OF CONTROL!
ATF
DEA
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? LD-50 IS JUST GOING TO TESTIFY IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMUNITY AND GO INTO THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM!
WHO SAID CRIME DOESN'T PAY?

SO WHAT ARE YOU? THE TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE OR THE PERMANENT REPLACEMENT?
I'M THE ORIGINAL SPIDEY, AND THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN THAT VENOM KNEW WAS MY CLONE, BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT--!
HEY--! LET'S NOT FORGET ABOUT ANN WEYING!
HOW CAN WE FORGET THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TRYING TO TURN HER AGAINST US!
WELL, IF YOU REALLY LOVED HER, YOU WOULD--
DON'T SAY IT, SPIDER-MAN--!
FACSIMILE, FRAUD OR REAL McCOY, I'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH REASON TO PULP YOUR PROBOSCIS!
LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!
HA! YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT OLD--

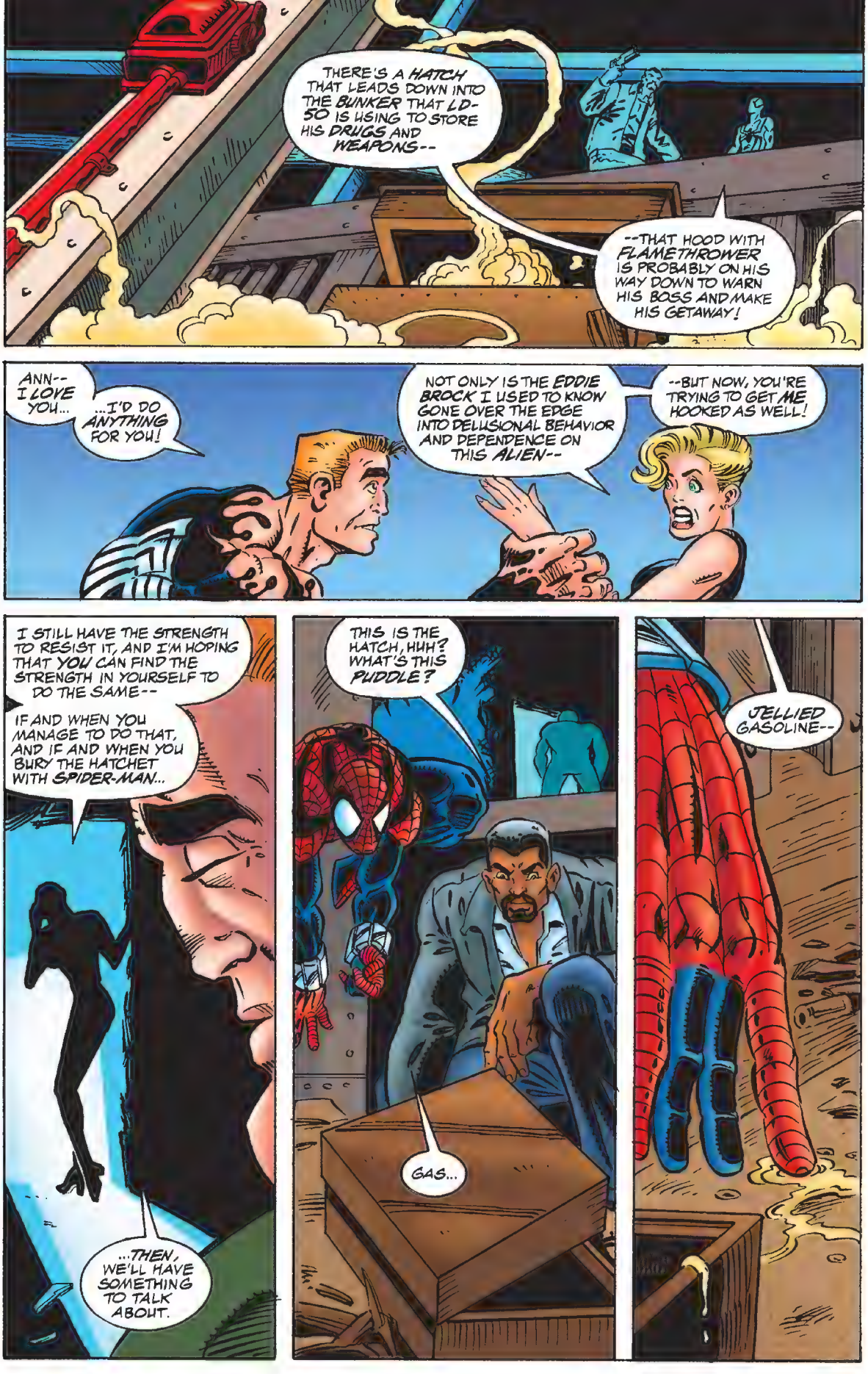

SLAMM
--TRICK?
LD-50 JUST MADE ROAD-KILL OUTTA THAT VENOM JERK!
IMBEDDED HIS FACE IN THE GRILL!
OH, NO!
OH, MAN--I HOPE THE TERRIFIC BEATING I'VE BEEN GIVING TO VENOM'S KNUCKLES WITH MY FACE IS WEARING HIM DOWN SOME--
--I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING THAT GETTING FLATTENED BY A MONSTER 4X4 ISN'T GOING TO SLOW HIM DOWN TOO MUCH!
DR. DAFAY? MY MOOD HAS BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY ELEVATED IN THE LAST FEW MOMENTS AND I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW--

--URK!! I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER!!
THAT'S TOO OPTIMISTIC, SLIME-BAG--
THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY LATER FOR YOU!
I'LL SCRAPE HIM OFF THE HOOD FOR YA, BOSS--
URRRGH!
--WITH A L.A.W.* ROCKET!!
FOOOOSH
THOOM
*LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPON

FINISH HIM!
I WANT HIM MOLECULARLY DISINCORPORATED!
TIME TO GET OURSELVES INTO A NEUTRAL CORNER, VENOM--
TZING
BWEE
VIP VIP VIP
UHHHH--
--SO WE CAN TAKE FIVE AND REGROUP!
DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR, RIGHT?
DESIST! THE ARACHNO-HUMANOID PSYCHO-VIGILANTES HAVE BEEN PUT IN THEIR PLACE FOR NOW!
OUR TIME IS BETTER SPENT IN THE SPEEDY REMOVAL OF OUR MERCHANDISE FROM THESE ENDANGERED SPECIES!
HOUSE OF HORROR
WE'RE MOVIN' THE DRUGS AND GUNS TO ANOTHER SAFE HOUSE?
PRECISELY!

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE HOSTAGE, BOSS?
IT WOULD SEEM THAT SHE IS, SHALL WE SAY, REDUNDANT?
WHAT WAS IT THAT HENRY II ASKED THOSE FOUR KNIGHTS TO DO TO THOMAS ABECKET? YOU THINK ABOUT IT AND DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, THEN COME JOIN US DOWN IN THE BUNKER.
IT WAS, LIKE, A RHETORICAL QUESTION, BUT THEY TOOK IT TO MEAN THEY SHOULD WHACK THE DUDE!
LD-50 DON'T WAX TOO RHETORICAL, YOU DIG? LIKE, THE DUDE IS LITERAL TO A FAULT--
DROP THE BISCUIT, SKELL!!
KEE-RASH
I SAID DROP IT!!
BLAMM BLAMM
EEEYOW!

KA-THOOOM
HANG ON, ANN! WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU!!
THE SAVING PART IS TAKEN CARE OF, VENOM, ALTHOUGH THE TWO OF YOU CAN ASSIST IN THE MOPPING UP!
ANN!! DID THAT CREEP HURT YOU? ARE YOU--?
YOU STAY AWAY FROM ME!!
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE!
I DON'T WAN'T THAT ALIEN OTHER TO COME NEAR ME EVER AGAIN, EVEN IF IT'S TO SAVE MY LIFE!
HEY! WHERE DID THAT SKELL GO

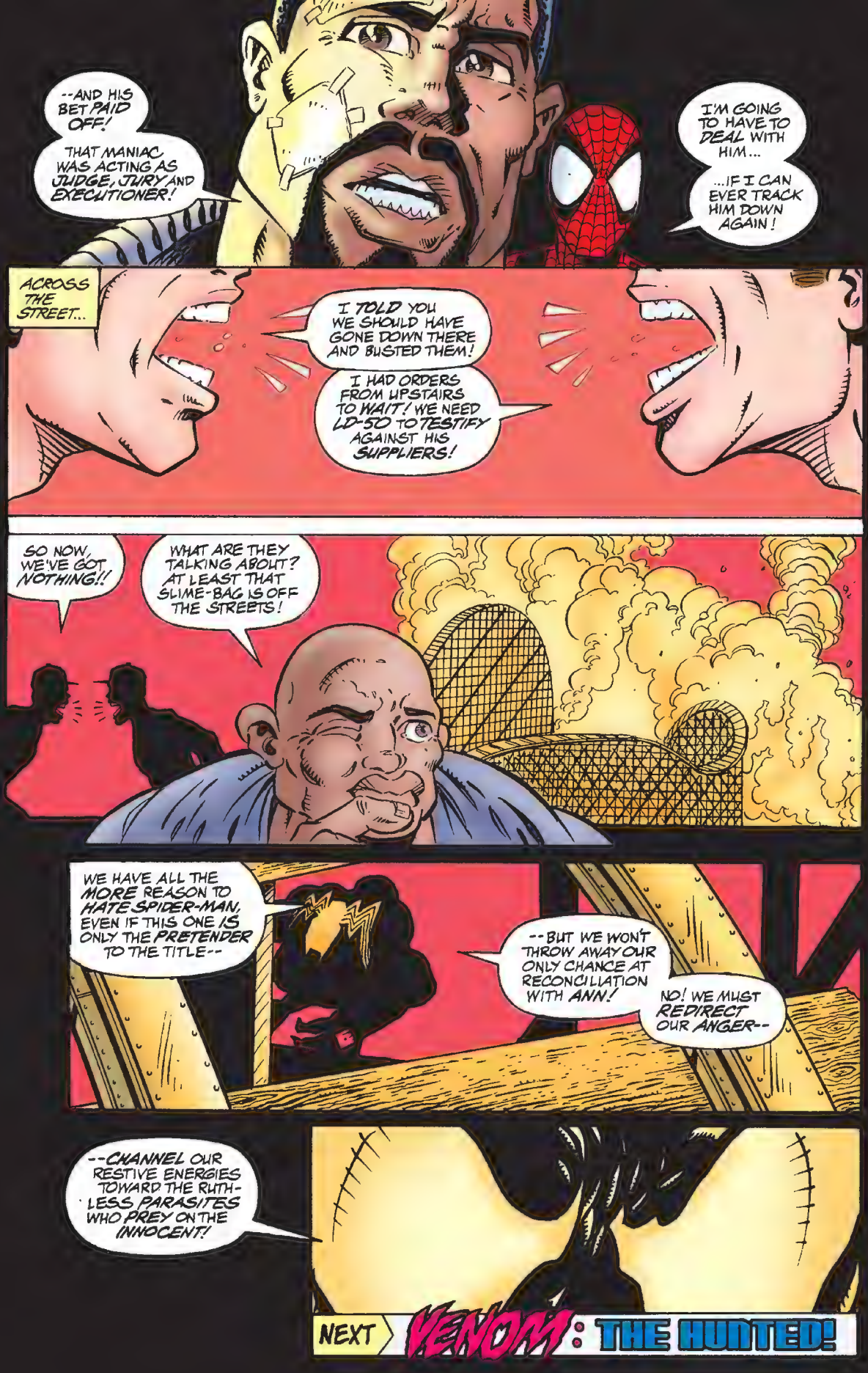

THERE'S A HATCH THAT LEADS DOWN INTO THE BUNKER THAT LD-50 IS USING TO STORE HIS DRUGS AND WEAPONS--
--THAT HOOD WITH FLAMETHROWER IS PROBABLY ON HIS WAY DOWN TO WARN HIS BOSS AND MAKE HIS GETAWAY!
ANN-- I LOVE YOU...
...I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!
NOT ONLY IS THE EDDIE BROCK I USED TO KNOW GONE OVER THE EDGE INTO DELUSIONAL BEHAVIOR AND DEPENDENCE ON THIS ALIEN--
--BUT NOW, YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME HOOKED AS WELL!
I STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO RESIST IT, AND I'M HOPING THAT YOU CAN FIND THE STRENGTH IN YOURSELF TO DO THE SAME--
IF AND WHEN YOU MANAGE TO DO THAT, AND IF AND WHEN YOU BURY THE HATCHET WITH SPIDER-MAN...
...THEN, WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT.
THIS IS THE HATCH, HUH? WHAT'S THIS PUDDLE?
GAS...
JELLIED GASOLINE--

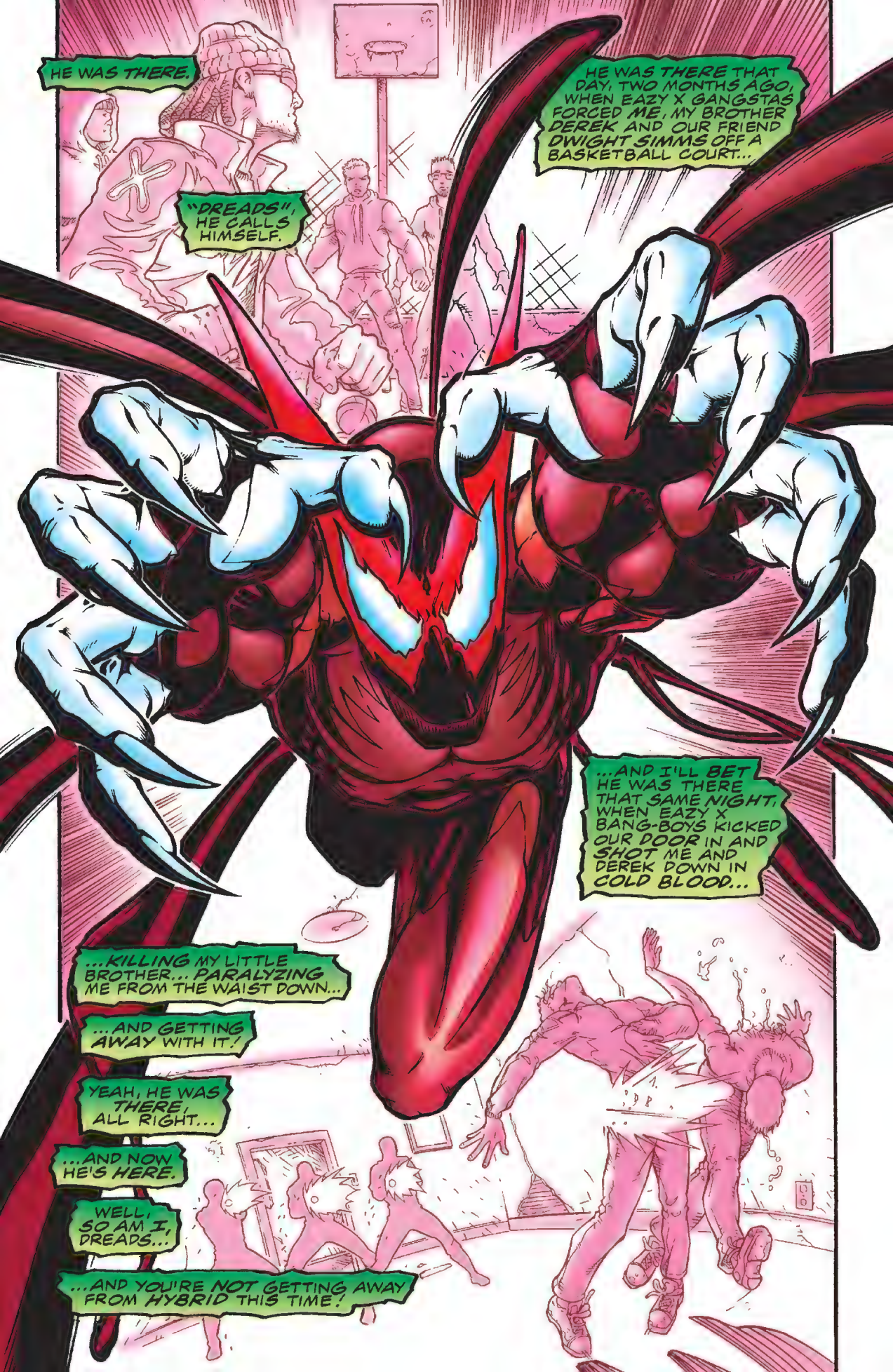
ONE OF YOUR BULLETS MUST HAVE PUNCTURED THE FLAMETHROWER TANK!
I WANT THIS MERCHANDISE REMOVED POST HASTE!
AND EXERCISE A GOODLY AMOUNT OF CAUTION IN DEALING WITH THOSE BARRELS OF EPHEDRINE AND ETHER--
--THEY ARE AS VOLATILE AS THEY ARE EXPENSIVE!
YO, BOSS! THE PIG PLANT JOMO CUT HIMSELF LOOSE AND BLEW!
HERE COMES ROACH!
THE COPS ARE UP IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE LD-50!
THEY GONNA BE COMIN' DOWN THE TUNNEL ANY SECOND!
THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO RAIN ON THEIR PARADE, SHAN'T WE?

WHAT DOES LD-50 HAVE DOWN IN THAT BUNKER, JOMO?
A HALF TON OF DRUGS, A FEW HUNDRED CRATES OF HEAVY ARMAMENTS...
...AND A WHOLE MESS OF 55-GALLON DRUMS FULL OF EPHEDRINE AND ETHER!
THAT'S THE STUFF THEY USE TO PROCESS METH-AMPHETAMINE AND COCAINE.
GOOD GRIEF! THEY STORE THAT STUFF WITH EXPLOSIVES AND AMMO??
IF THERE REALLY IS A BIG STASH OF GUNS AND DOPE DOWN THERE, THEN WE HAD BETTER GO AND STOP THOSE BAD BOYS BEFORE THEY SPLIT WITH THE GOODS!
I AM WILLING TO IGNORE THE PRESENCE OF A KNOWN FELON AND A NOTORIOUS COSTUMED VIGILANTE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC IF THEY WILL HELP APPREHEND THESE DIRT-BAGS...
YOU'VE GOT A DEAL, CLARK!
IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO SNEAK UP ON THEM IN THE DARK!
KA-SHUNK
IN THE BUNKER...
DAG! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
'TIS BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS--

I GOT A MATCH, YOU GOT THE CANDLE BOSS?
HRK! IT WAS A METAPHOR, STUPID!!
FOOOMP
SOMEBODY STAMP HIM OUT BEFORE THE WHOLE CACHE IGNITES AND--
UH-OH!
BA-WHOOOMPH
HOO-HA!!
OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!
ATF

LOOK OUT!! IT'S RAINING GUNS!!
YOW! I HAVEN'T RUN THAT FAST SINCE HIGH SCHOOL!
YOU WERE ON THE TRACK TEAM?
NAH. JUST UNPOPULAR.
WHERE'S VENOM? WASN'T HE RIGHT BEHIND US?
VENOM! HE PLAYED US FOR SUCKERS! HE SWITCHED OFF THE LIGHTS HOPING TO GET THEM TO LIGHT A MATCH--


--AND HIS BET PAID OFF!
THAT MANIAC WAS ACTING AS JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIM...
...IF I CAN EVER TRACK HIM DOWN AGAIN!
ACROSS THE STREET...
I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD HAVE GONE DOWN THERE AND BUSTED THEM!
I HAD ORDERS FROM UPSTAIRS TO WAIT! WE NEED LD-50 TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIS SUPPLIERS!
SO NOW, WE'VE GOT NOTHING!!
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? AT LEAST THAT SLIME-BAG IS OFF THE STREETS!
WE HAVE ALL THE MORE REASON TO HATE SPIDER-MAN, EVEN IF THIS ONE IS ONLY THE PRETENDER TO THE TITLE--
--BUT WE WON'T THROW AWAY OUR ONLY CHANCE AT RECONCILIATION WITH ANN!
NO! WE MUST REDIRECT OUR ANGER--
--CHANNEL OUR RESTIVE ENERGIES TOWARD THE RUTHLESS PARASITES WHO PREY ON THE INNOCENT!
NEXT VENOM: THE HUNTED!


HE WAS THERE.
"DREADS", HE CALLS HIMSELF.
HE WAS THERE THAT DAY, TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN EAZY X GANGSTAS FORCED ME, MY BROTHER DEREK AND OUR FRIEND DWIGHT SIMMS OFF A BASKETBALL COURT...
...AND I'LL BET HE WAS THERE THAT SAME NIGHT, WHEN EAZY X BANG-BOYS KICKED OUR DOOR IN AND SHOT ME AND DEREK DOWN IN COLD BLOOD...
...KILLING MY LITTLE BROTHER... PARALYZING ME FROM THE WAIST DOWN...
...AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT!
YEAH, HE WAS THERE, ALL RIGHT...
...AND NOW HE'S HERE.
WELL, SO AM I, DREADS...
...AND YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM HYBRID THIS TIME!

HYBRID PHASE 4:

REVELATIONS

I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER THINGS, OTHER PEOPLE I SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW.

LIKE THE CLUNKY BUT DANGEROUS ARMOR YOUR EAZY X GANG HAS ASSEMBLED FROM THE GUARDSMAN ARMOR BLUEPRINTS YOU TOOK FROM ME...

...OR LIKE JUSTICE, MY FRIEND, AND THE TELE-KINETIC LEADER OF THE NEW WARRIORS, WHO CAME ALONG TO HELP RECOVER THE BLUEPRINTS...

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA-BUDDA

KRANG

POOM

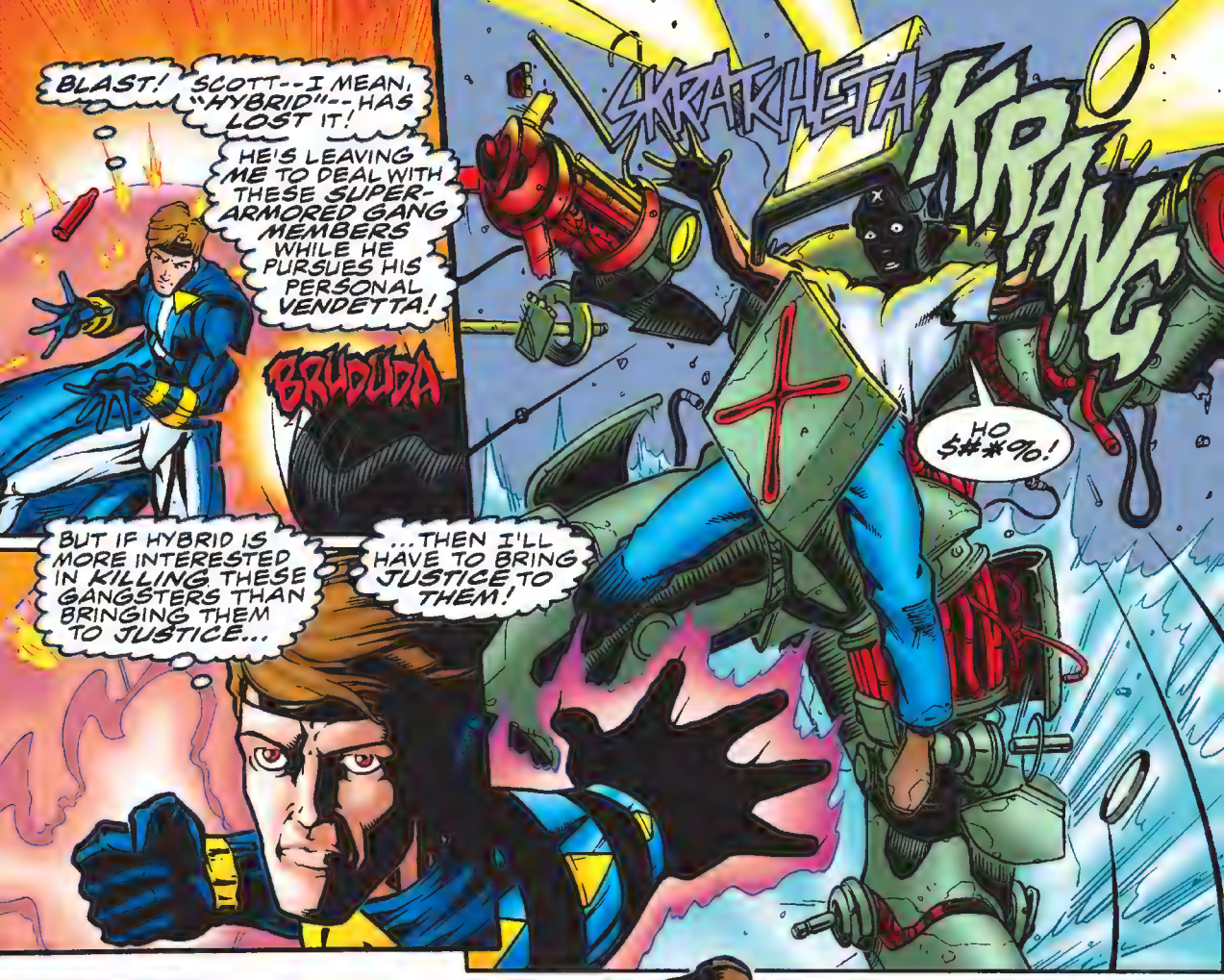
POOM

A SKOLNICK, AUCOIN ADAMS, NOVAK, SMITH, BREVOORT, HARRAS PRODUCTION

...OR EVEN "SCAR," YOUR OWN GANG LEADER, AND VERY LIKELY THE GUY WHO ORDERED THE HIT ON MY BROTHER AND ME...

...BUT I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU, DREADS.

MAYBE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KEEPS TRYING TO GET AWAY!


BLAST!
SCOTT--I MEAN, "HYBRID"--HAS LOST IT!
HE'S LEAVING ME TO DEAL WITH THESE SUPER-ARMORED GANG MEMBERS WHILE HE PURSUES HIS PERSONAL VENDETTA!
BRUDUDA
BUT IF HYBRID IS MORE INTERESTED IN KILLING THESE GANGSTERS THAN BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE...
...THEN I'LL HAVE TO BRING JUSTICE TO THEM!
SKRATCHETA
KRANG
HO $#*%!

DIE, YOU MUTHAH! DIE!
POOM POOM
POOM POOM
BOY, YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING...
TING
...WAY TOO MANY MOVIES!

THRAK

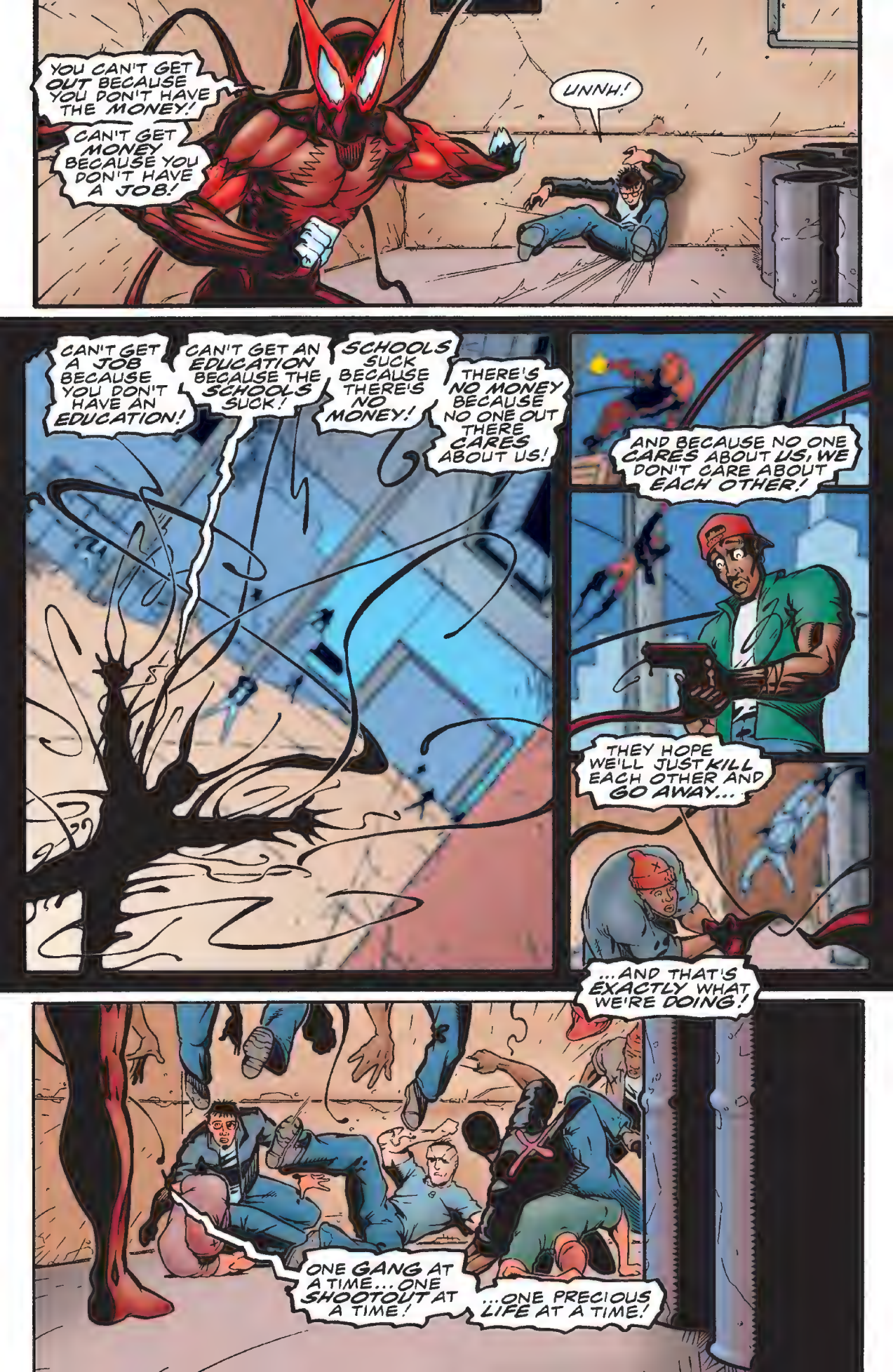
CAP THE FRIGGIN'-- HURGH
FUNNY... THIS IS ALL HAPPENING BECAUSE I TRIED TO GET MY FAMILY OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE... OUT OF BEDFORD-STUYVESANT.
STOP 'IM, MAN! SOMEBODY STOP 'IM!
MANAGED TO LAND A JOB AS A GUARDSMAN AT THE SUPER-VILLAIN PRISON CALLED THE VAULT...
OUT THE WAY!
WHOUFF!
UNNH!
...THEN FOUND MYSELF TRANSFERRED TO A TOP-SECRET FACILITY WHERE THEY WERE EXAMINING FOUR OF VENOM'S SYMBIOTE OFFSPRING.
CLUMSY SON OF A--
THE TESTS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE SYMBIOTES WERE CRUEL. I ALLOWED THE ALIENS TO ESCAPE. AND I GOT FIRED FOR IT.
BUT THE SYMBIOTES REMEMBERED ME... THEY FOUND ME AND BONDED WITH ME... AND NOW, TOGETHER, WE'RE HYBRID!
AH, THERE HE IS...
URGGK

...STILL RUNNING... BUT NOT FOR LONG--
WAIT.
MY SYMBIOTES SENSE ONE OF THE ARMORS GETTING A BEAD ON ME!
HANDY HAVING FOUR SETS OF EYES IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD --AND EVERYWHERE ELSE!
JUST DETACH ENOUGH SYMBIOTE MATERIAL--
--TO TAKE HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE!
WHAT THE--?

KEEP RUNNING, YOU SORRY PIECE OF CRAP.
PULLING YOUR MASK DOWN WON'T HIDE YOU THIS TIME.
WHEN YOU AND YOUR "CREW" KICKED OUR DOOR IN, THERE WASN'T ANY PLACE FOR US TO HIDE...
NO-- PLEASE--
...OR ANY TIME FOR US TO BEG FOR OUR LIVES!
NO--
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING--
--EXCEPT DEATH!
AAIGH
THAKK
NO PLACE TO HIDE? HOW'S IT FEEL?
N-NO-- D-DON'T--

D-DON'T HURT M-ME, MAN...
...DIDN'T DO N-NOTHIN'...
...I JUST JOINED UP A FEW W-WEEKS BACK!
OH MY GOD! NO! IT CAN'T BE...
DWIGHT?!
SCOTT--?
WH-WHAT THE #@%% ARE YOU DOING IN EAZY X COLORS, MAN?
THEY KILLED DEREK... SHOT ME! YOU KNEW THAT!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR FRIEND, D! H-HOW...WHY...?

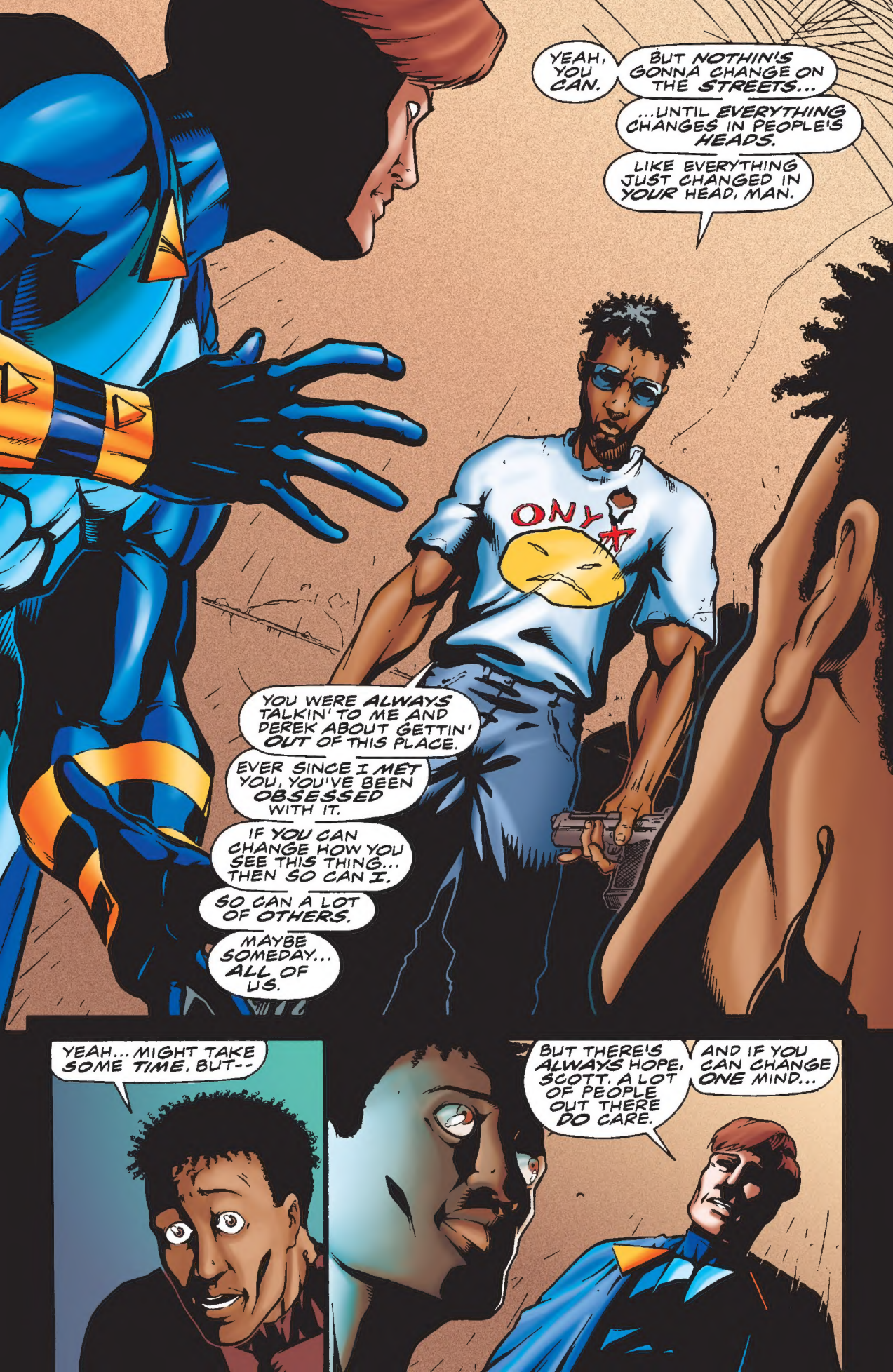
S-SCOTT?
THAT'S REALLY YOU?
OH, GOD...
I...I WAS SCARED, MAN!
YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, DEREK WAS IN HIS GRAVE... I THOUGHT I WAS NEXT!
I FIGURED THE ONLY WAY I COULD BE SAFE FROM EAZY X WAS IF I BECAME ONE OF 'EM!
KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
...IS NIGHT-MARE LOGIC.
NO HOPE...NO OPTIONS ...NO WAY OUT!
THIS IS THE WORLD I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM, DWIGHT...
...A WORLD THAT DOES ITS BEST TO TURN HONEST BRO-THERS LIKE YOU AND ME...
...INTO MURDERERS!

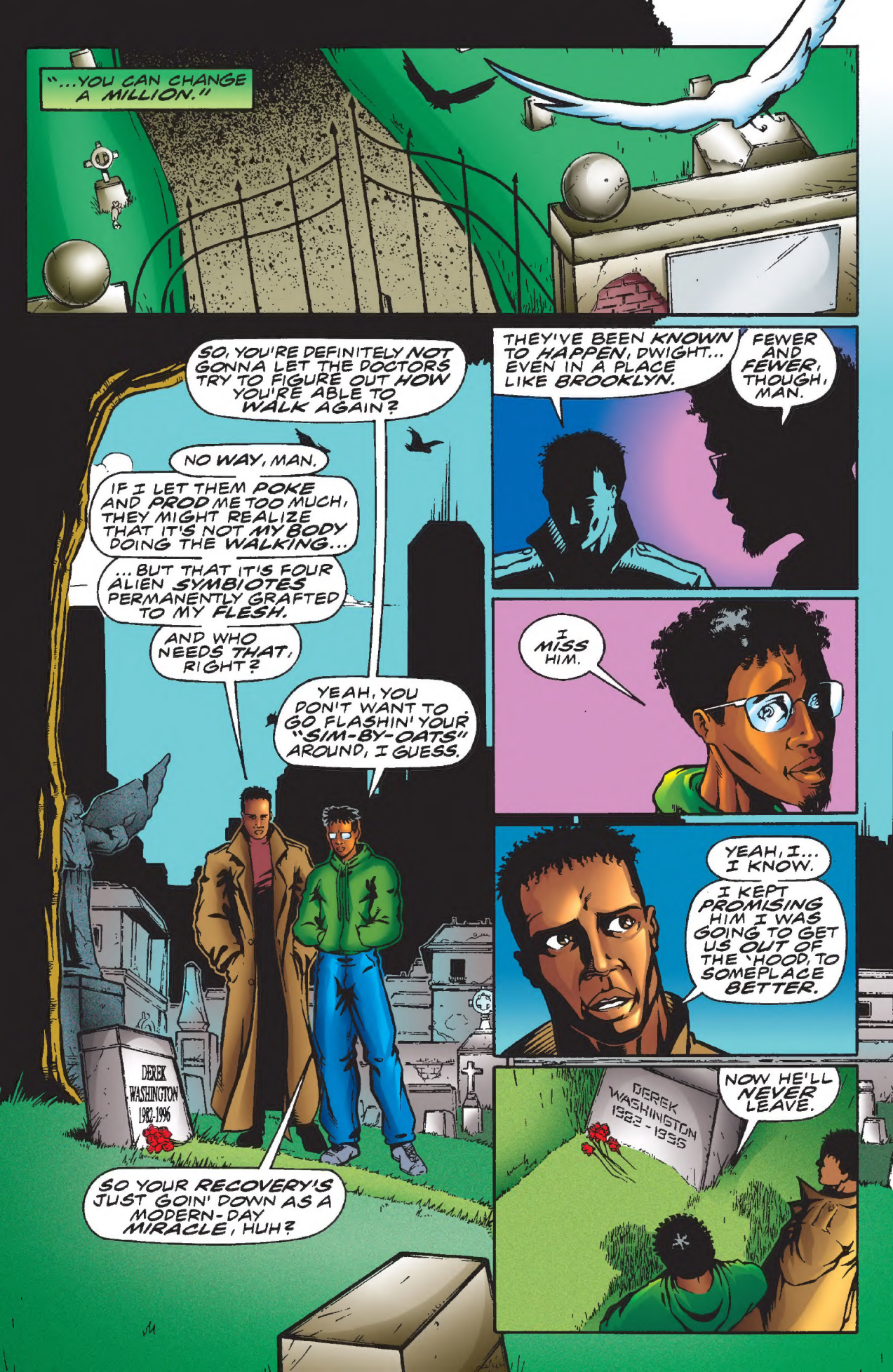

YOU CAN'T GET OUT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY!
CAN'T GET MONEY BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB!
UNNH!
CAN'T GET A JOB BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE AN EDUCATION!
CAN'T GET AN EDUCATION BECAUSE THE SCHOOLS SUCK!
SCHOOLS SUCK BECAUSE THERE'S NO MONEY!
THERE'S NO MONEY BECAUSE NO ONE OUT THERE CARES ABOUT US!
AND BECAUSE NO ONE CARES ABOUT US, WE DON'T CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER!
THEY HOPE WE'LL JUST KILL EACH OTHER AND GO AWAY...
...AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING!
ONE GANG AT A TIME... ONE SHOOTOUT AT A TIME!
...ONE PRECIOUS LIFE AT A TIME!

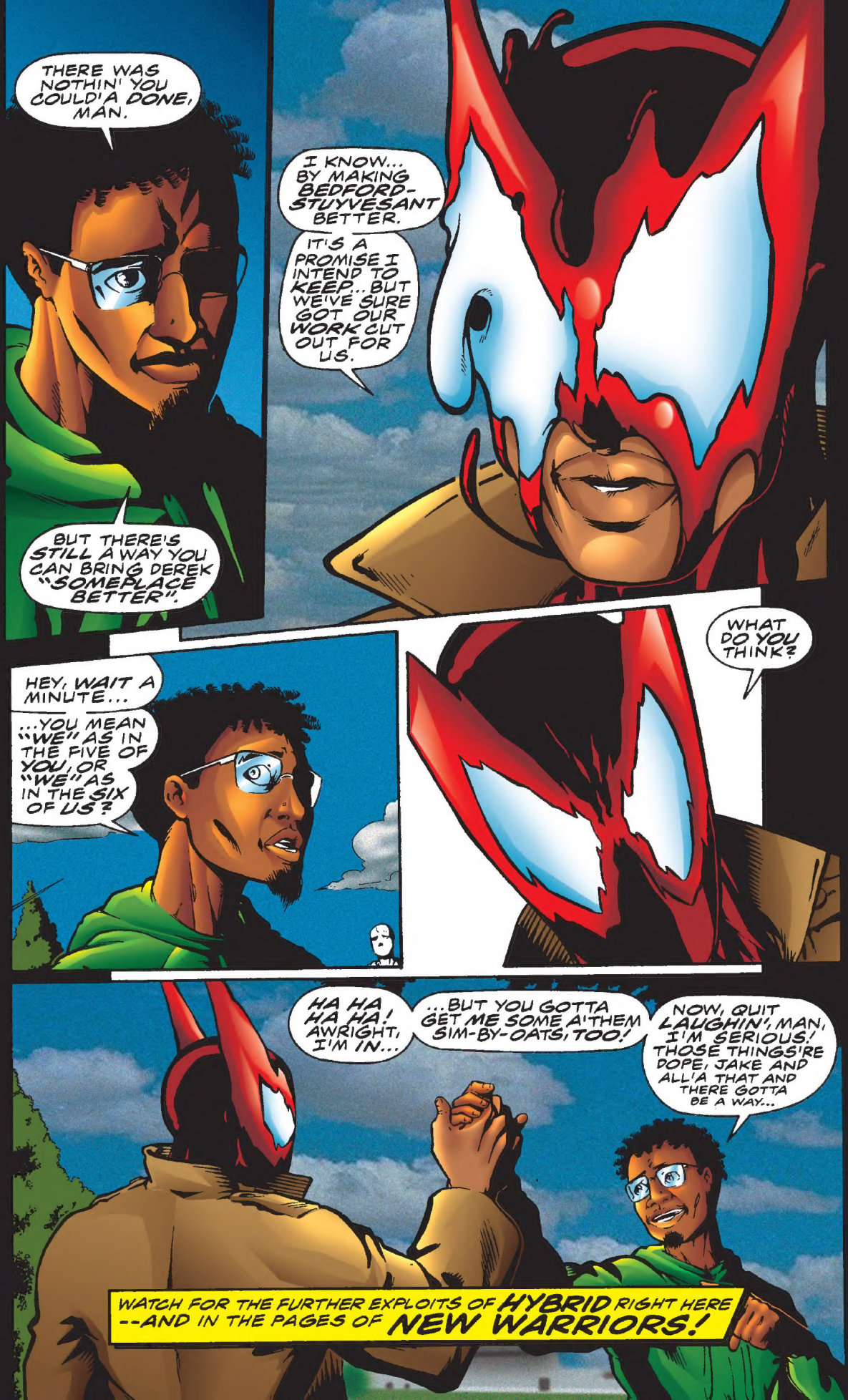
WE'RE ALL KILLING EACH OTHER TRYING TO GET OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE!
INSTEAD OF TRYING TO HELP EACH OTHER, WE'RE RUNNING DRUGS... STAKING OUT TERRITORY ...MAKING THIS PLACE EVEN WORSE!
IT'S GOT TO STOP-- NOW!
THE ANSWER ISN'T RUNNING AWAY-- OR RUNNING DRUGS-- OR EVEN REVENGE!
THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE--THIS IS OUR HOME!
IT'S UP TO US TO CLEAN IT UP, MY BROTHERS, TO KEEP IT TOGETHER...
...TO STAY, AND MAKE IT SAFE FOR ALL OF US!

WHA'CHU TALKIN' 'BOUT?
YOU AIN'T ONE OF US--YOU A FREAK!
CAP 'IM!
POOM POOM
BR-R-R-R-T
NOOOOOOOOO!
GLUP
GLUP
GLUP
GLUP
GLUP
GLUP
NO...
AUDI, Y'ALL!

NOT SO FAST--
LET THEM GO, VANCE. IT'S OVER.
THEY DIDN'T HEAR A WORD I SAID.
SCOTT, I--
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN--
DO?
WHAT'S TO DO IN A PLACE WITHOUT HOPE, MAN?
A PLACE THAT TAKES INNOCENT YOUNG BOYS AND EITHER KILLS 'EM OR TURNS 'EM INTO KILLERS?
I KNOW YOU'RE USED TO A GOOD FIGHT, VANCE...
...BUT HOW DO YOU FIGHT THAT?
SIMPLE ANSWER.
YOU CAN'T.


YEAH, YOU CAN.
BUT NOTHIN'S GONNA CHANGE ON THE STREETS...
...UNTIL EVERYTHING CHANGES IN PEOPLE'S HEADS.
LIKE EVERYTHING JUST CHANGED IN YOUR HEAD, MAN.
ONYX
YOU WERE ALWAYS TALKIN' TO ME AND DEREK ABOUT GETTIN' OUT OF THIS PLACE.
EVER SINCE I MET YOU, YOU'VE BEEN OBSESSED WITH IT.
IF YOU CAN CHANGE HOW YOU SEE THIS THING... THEN SO CAN I.
SO CAN A LOT OF OTHERS.
MAYBE SOMEDAY... ALL OF US.
YEAH... MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, BUT--
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE, SCOTT. A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE DO CARE.
AND IF YOU CAN CHANGE ONE MIND...


"...YOU CAN CHANGE A MILLION."
SO, YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT GONNA LET THE DOCTORS TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU'RE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN?
NO WAY, MAN.
IF I LET THEM POKE AND PROD ME TOO MUCH, THEY MIGHT REALIZE THAT IT'S NOT MY BODY DOING THE WALKING...
...BUT THAT IT'S FOUR ALIEN SYMBIOTES PERMANENTLY GRAFTED TO MY FLESH.
AND WHO NEEDS THAT, RIGHT?
YEAH, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO FLASHIN' YOUR "SIM-BY-OATS" AROUND, I GUESS.
SO YOUR RECOVERY'S JUST GOIN' DOWN AS A MODERN-DAY MIRACLE, HUH?
DEREK WASHINGTON 1982-1996
THEY'VE BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN, DWIGHT... EVEN IN A PLACE LIKE BROOKLYN.
FEWER AND FEWER, THOUGH, MAN.
I MISS HIM.
YEAH, I... I KNOW.
I KEPT PROMISING HIM I WAS GOING TO GET US OUT OF THE 'HOOD, TO SOMEPLACE BETTER.
DEREK WASHINGTON 1982 - 1996
NOW HE'LL NEVER LEAVE.


THERE WAS NOTHIN' YOU COULD'A DONE, MAN.
BUT THERE'S STILL A WAY YOU CAN BRING DEREK "SOMEPLACE BETTER".
I KNOW... BY MAKING BEDFORD-STUYVESANT BETTER.
IT'S A PROMISE I INTEND TO KEEP.. BUT WE'VE SURE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...
...YOU MEAN "WE" AS IN THE FIVE OF YOU, OR "WE" AS IN THE SIX OF US?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HA HA HA HA! AWRIGHT, I'M IN...
...BUT YOU GOTTA GET ME SOME A'THEM SIM-BY-OATS, TOO!
NOW, QUIT LAUGHIN', MAN, I'M SERIOUS! THOSE THINGS'RE DOPE, JAKE AND ALL'A THAT AND THERE GOTTA BE A WAY...
WATCH FOR THE FURTHER EXPLOITS OF HYBRID RIGHT HERE --AND IN THE PAGES OF NEW WARRIORS!